

Re: Point V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Independent Claim 1

1. The object of Claim 1 of the present Application cannot be considered novel for the following reasons (Article 33 (2) PCT):

1.1 The following features of Claim 1 are already known, for example, from the most proximate related art D1: US 4,621,788:

Valve 10 for controlling a fluid, in particular for controlling a gas, including a valve housing 14 having a housing sleeve (48, 50) and an electromagnetic actuator 30 for an armature 28 which is guided in an axially displaceable manner and which cooperates with a valve seat 26 situated on a valve plate 24 so that a fluid flow through outflow orifices 26 in the seating plate 24 is controllable, the armature 28 being guided along an armature sleeve 16 which is situated in the housing sleeve (48, 50).

(D1, column 1, lines 6 through 19, column [?], lines 20 through 65 and Figures 1 and 2).

The object of Claim 1 is thus not novel. (Article 33 (2) PCT).

1.2 In addition, the features of Claim 1 are also known from documents D2: US 6,089,467 (column 4, line 64 through column 6, line 56 and Figures 1 through 9), D3: US 4,331,317 (column 2, line 20 through column 4, line 30 and Figures 1 through 4), D4: US 5,232,167 (column 2,

line 20 through column 5, line 56 and Figures 1 and 2), D5: DE 19503736 (column 1, lines 33 through 66 and Figures 1 through 5), D6: US 6,422,488 (column 4, line 11 through column 10, line 6 and Figures 1 through 10), D7: US 5,197,672 (column 1, line 67 through column 5 line 9 and Figures 1 through 4), and D8: EP 0661444 (column 3, line 46 through column 10, line 6 and Figures 1 through 7).

#### Dependent Claims 2 through 7

2. Dependent Claims 2 through 7 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any other claim to which they refer, fulfill the PCT requirements with regard to inventive step since the features listed in these dependent claims merely pertain to simple and obvious measures which are self-evident to those skilled in the art and also do not constitute an inventive step. The additional features of these dependent claims are partly known, as described below, from the documents included in the search report.
  - 2.1 The additional features of dependent Claim 4 are already known from document D1 (Figure 1).
  - 2.2 The additional features of dependent Claims 5 through 7 are already known from document D2 (Figure 2).